

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1.-31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) A method for inhibiting the expression of a target gene in a cell that expresses the targeted gene, comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a composition comprising an mRNA-cDNA hybrid duplex prior to contacting said cell, wherein the mRNA-cDNA hybrid duplex is capable of inhibiting the expression of said targeted gene in said cell; and
- b) contacting said cell with said composition under conditions such that the expression of said gene in said cell is inhibited.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 32, wherein said cell expresses said targeted gene *in vivo*.

35. (Original) The method of Claim 32, wherein said targeted gene comprises a gene selected from the group consisting of pathogenic nucleic acids, viral genes, mutated genes, and oncogenes.

36. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 32, wherein said mRNA-cDNA hybrid duplex inhibits  $\beta$ -catenin expression.

37. (Currently Amended and Withdrawn) The method of Claim 32, wherein said mRNA-cDNA hybrid duplex inhibits bcl-2 expression.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 32, wherein said cell is a prokaryotic cell.

39. (Canceled)

40. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 38, wherein said cell is a bacterial cell.

41. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 32, wherein said cell is a cell of ~~a~~ an eukaryote.

42. (Original) The method of Claim 41, wherein said eukaryote is a vertebrate.

43. (Original) The method of Claim 41, wherein said eukaryote is a mouse.

44. (Original) The method of Claim 41, wherein said eukaryote is chimpanzee.

45. (Original) The method of Claim 41, wherein said eukaryote is a human being.

46.-54. (Canceled)

55. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 32, wherein the composition consists of an mRNA-cDNA hybrid duplex capable of inhibiting the expression of said targeted gene.

56.-57. (Canceled)

58. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 55, wherein said cell expresses said targeted gene *in vivo*.

59. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 55, wherein said targeted gene comprises a gene selected from the group consisting of pathogenic nucleic acids, viral genes, mutated genes, and oncogenes.

60. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 55, wherein said mRNA-cDNA hybrid duplex inhibits  $\beta$ -catenin expression.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 55, wherein said cell is a prokaryotic cell.

62. (Canceled)

63. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 61, wherein said cell is a bacterial cell.

64. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 55, wherein said cell is a cell of ~~a~~ an eukaryote.

65. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 64, wherein said eukaryote is a vertebrate.

66. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 64, wherein said eukaryote is a mouse.

67. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 64, wherein said eukaryote is chimpanzee.

Appl. No. 09/920,342

Attorney Docket No. 89188.0022

Amdt. Dated March 27, 2006

Customer No.: 26021

Reply to Office Action of December 27, 2005

68. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 64, wherein said eukaryote is a human being.